No 36.

THE BARONS OF THE

Cinque Ports, two ancient Towns, and their members Breviat, which they humbly offer to the Honorable the Knights and *Burgesses of the House of Commons of Parliament concerning their grieuances:*

First, that they are restrained to trade into the Low Countries *and* Germany:

Secondly, that they are restrained of free buying and selling in London:

The said Cinque Ports, two ancient Townes and members, containe these seuerall places, *viz.*

HASTING in *Sussex*, one of the Ports: The members thereof are
- The Vill or Lowy of *Peuensey*
- The Vill of *Seaford*
- The Vill of *Bulverheth*
- The Vill of *Petit Iham*
- The Vill of *Hiddny*

} in *Sussex*.

- *Beakes-borne* and
- *Graunge*, aliâs *Grenche*

} in *Kent*.

ROMNEY in *Kent*, one other of the Ports: The members thereof are
- *Promehill* in *Sussex* and *Kent*.
- *Lydd*
- *Old Romney*
- *Dengemarshe*
- *Orwardstone*, aliàs *Orwelstone*

} in *Kent*.

HETHE in *Kent*, one other of the Ports: The member thereof is *Westhethe*.

The names of the Ports, Townes, and Members of the same.

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DOVOR one other of the Ports in *Kent*: The members thereof are
- *Foulkeston*
- *Fauersham*
- *Margate*
- *S. Iohns*
- *Goresend*
- *Burchington*
- *Wood*, aliàs *Woodchurch*
- *Saint Peters*
- *Kingsdowne*
- *Rindgwold*

} in *Kent*.

A SAND-

SANDWICH in *Kent*, one other of the Ports: } The members thereof are { *Fordwich*, *Deale*, *Walmer*, *Rameſgate*, *Stonar*, *Sarr* } in *Kent*; *Brightlingſey* in *Eſſex*.

RYE in *Suſſex*, one of the ancient Townes: } The member thereof is } The Vill and Hundred of *Tenterden* in *Kent*.

WINCHELSEY in *Suſſex*, the other ancient Towne, } Hath no member.

Ports ſubiect to danger.

The Cinque Ports haue beene the chiefeſt Townes of Trade in the kingdome.

They haue borne and are ſtill ſubiect to the firſt brunt of any forraine inuaſion.

Their Charge and Seruice.

They haue and are bound to finde and maintaine for the defence of the Realme a Royall Nauy of 57. ſhips, 1244. men in warlike manner appointed, and victualled at their owne coſts, as by their Charter appeares.

They are alſo charged, and doe yearely prouide and keepe, beſides the particular Armes which euery man findeth, a great ſtocke and ſtore of powder, ſhot, match, munitions, ſmall boats for diſcouering and maintaining of Harbours, Peeres, Creekes, and making fortifications, and attending the arriuall and going out of paſſengers, and releeuing Souldiers, Mariners, and Sailers who ſuffer ſhipwrecke: And doe keepe great watches, and ſend yearely two Baylifes to *Yarmouth*, and other ſuch like great charges.

But now they are vtterly diſabled not only to performe theſe publike ſeruices, but alſo to ſuſtaine themſelues and their poore people within their Townes, which hath hapned by reaſon of the foreſaid reſtraints.

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The

The first grieuance.

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THe first greiuance by a Charter obtained in 15. *Iac. R.* by the Marchant aduenturers in *London*, wherein is contained a prohibition to all Marchants and others not to trade into *Germany* and the *Low Countries*, which is expresly against the ancient Charters of the Ports and their continuall vsages: For,

Merchant aduenturers Charter prohibiting trade.

1 By the Common Law, it was lawfull for all men to trade beyond the Seas, without restriction of place; and if to all, much more to the Cinque Ports, whose maintenance was only trade and commerce, and their liberties and customes 9. *H.* 3. *Magna Charta cap.* 9. were confirmed by Parliament, which Charter hath since beene confirmed by 30. seuerall Acts of Parliament.

Lawfull to all his Maiesties subiects to trade.

2 For confirmation of these liberties 6. *Ed.* 1. the King granted to the Barons and good men of the Cinque Ports &c. That they should be free *de toto mercato suo sicut nostri liberi homines*, with a prohibition that they should not be disturbed vpon paine of a forfeiture.

Charter of King Edw. the first to the Ports of their freedome, and not to be disturbed vpon a payne.

3 And the same King in 26. of his reigne reciting the great costs and charge the Ports &c. were at in the maintenance of their Nauy, granted the like libertie to their Aduocants, which Aduocants are described by that Charter to be such which will participate of their liberties, and contribute to their charge.

Aduocants of the Ports.

4 This Charter 1. *E.* 3. was confirmed by Act of Parliament.

5 After these setled liberties, there was continuall trade and commerce betweene them and the Inhabitants of the Low Countries, which bred a setled vsage for the satisfaction of debts betweene Ports-men and the Inhabitants of those Townes in the Low Countries by Letters of Withernam in such sort as is betweene Cinque Port and Cinque Port: And such Letters of Withernam haue beene granted to *Cane* in *Normandy*, to *Newport*, *Flushing*, *Dunkirke*, *Callice*, *Oastend*, *Sluce*, *Dorthright*, *Antwerp*, and in 15. *Eliz. Reginæ* to *Hamborow*.

Trade into the Low Countries.

6 And this course was ratified vpon a Reference from the Councell Table in *Anno* 1577. which was 19. *Eliz.*

7 And it appeareth by entries in the Custome bookes, diuers goods were shipped to diuers of those Townes from the Ports.

8 So then these ancient vsages doe fully explaine the liberties granted by those old Charters, which otherwise by the generalitie might be doubtfull.

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The ſecond grieuance.

Free of buying and ſelling in all places of England. Continuance and allowance thereof, vntill about two yeres paſt.

1 THat where by the Charter of 6. *Ed.* 1. they haue this liberty granted them to be free *De tota vendicione & de Achato & Reachato per totam terram & poteſtatem noſtram*, And by that liberty did freely buy & ſell in *London*, and in all places of *England*,

2 This vſage continued without interruption other then ſuch as they made reſtitution of vpon complaint, from *Ed.* 1. his time vntill Queene *Eliz.* at which time in the 37. yeare of her reigne the Citizens of *London* taking head to oppreſſe the Ports, ſeized goods bought by one *Thomas Nowel* of *Sandwich*, who complained to the Lords of the Councell, and the matter was referred to the Queenes learned Councell, and Maſter Recorder of *London* who certified to the Board, that the Councell for the City did confeſſe that the Ports men ought to haue free buying and ſelling in *London*.

3 And ſince that time the Ports haue enioied free buying and ſelling in *London*, vntill about two yeares now paſt that *George Dun*, Keeper of *Blackwel* Hall, ſeiſed cloath bought by *Samuel Wilcocke* a Ports man in the ſaid Hall.

What the ports were and what they now are.

By reaſon of the free trade and priuileges aforeſaid, the Port of *Sandwich* alone in the time of King *Ed.* 4. had 95. ſhips and 1500. Saylers, and yeelded the King betweene 16000. li. and 17000. li. *per annum* for cuſtome: And in the beginning of the Kings time that now is, it yeelded 2926. li. But now by reaſon of this new Charter to the Merchant Aduenturers, & the debarring the Ports of free buying & ſelling in *London*, al the Ports & their members haue not halfe ſo many ſhips, nor a quarter ſo many Saylers: but their trading being taken from them, the ſhips are gone to *London* & the Mariners & Saylers follow them, all Merchants and men of worth are gone out of the Ports, & ſo the Frontier Townes are forſaken and left vnpeopled, and the houſes ſtand empty & run to ruine, & the Kings Cuſtome in that Towne (as in the reſt) is come to nothing, and they are oppreſſed with multitude of poore, and burthened with their watches and munition, ſo that a man of 1000. li. value there is at much more charge by Scott and Lott, then one of 100000. li. value in *London*. And if forraine warres ſhould happen, the Realme muſt prouide Garrizons in thoſe Townes to defend them, which formerly were able and did defend the whole Kingdome at their owne charge. And all this is but to bring an increaſe of Trade to the City of *London*, who is already growne ſo great a Head, as if it increaſe in the next 20. yeares as it hath done this laſt 20. it will be a burthen to the whole Body.

51

They humbly intreat an Act for the Repayring of the *decayed Haven of* Dunwich, *South-wold, and* Walberſwicke; *And one ancient Channell running from that Hauen towards* Dunwich, *to a place called* Hummerſtons Cutt *in the County of* Suffolke.

Sheweth:

THat the ſaid Haven hath been heeretofore very commodious for Shipping, and the ſaid Townes haue therby bred great ſtore of Marriners and able men for the Warres, and haue in ancient times put forth xj. ſhippes of Warre at their owne charge, and haue of late furniſhed the Common Wealth with 20000 li. worth of Fiſh yearely, beſides a great quantity of Compoſition Fiſh for the prouiſion of his Maieſties Howſhold.

And that now of late by the violence of North-eaſt winds, the ſaid Hauen for want of Pyling and other prouiſion, hath been ſtopped, and the Townes thereby decayed, to the great preiudice of that part of the Kingdome.

That by the decaying of the ſaid Hauen, many Veſſells haue beene caſt away, to the value of 6000 li. and vpwards.

That his Maieſty hauing been certified thereof, and that the charge would amount to 6000 li to repaire it, recommended the ſame to the beneuolence of his louing Subiects.

That there hath been thereby gathered 1809 li. 10 s. which with the Sum of 324 li. leuied by the ſaid Townes, hath been all ymployed in amending the ſaid Hauen, and yet the worke is ſo chargeable that the Townes are not able to finiſh the ſame.

And therefore for the raiſing of a competent Sum for the finiſhing thereof, They humbly pray, that it may be enacted, that euery ſhip or veſſell of the burthen of 20 Tunnes loading or diſcharging betweene the North-foreland in *Kent*, and *Barwicke*, paſſing to or fro any forraigne Countrey, ſhall pay for euer Tun 3 d. except Sea Coales and Grind-ſtones.

And for euery Chaldren of Sea Coale 1 d. ob. vntill the Sum of 4000 li. be ſo leuied, to be receiued by the Collectors of the Cuſtome, who ſhall pay it into the Exchequor, And from thence it ſhall be receiued to the vſe aforeſaid; And that euery ſuch Collectors making wilfull default to collect the ſaid Sums, ſhall forfeit Ten Pounds.

And they pray, that it may be further enacted, that euery Inhabitant of the ſaid Townes ſhall pay towards the perpetuall maintenance of the repairation of the ſaid Hauen, theſe ſeuerall Sums of money hereafter expreſſed, viz. For euery Hundred of North Sea Cods 4 d. For euery Hundred of other Cod 3 d. For euery Hundred of Ling 6 d. For euery barrell of Fiſh 1 d. For euery 1000 of Herrings 1 d.

And for euery Chaldron of Coales landed in the ſaid Hauen 2 d. For euery Shippe ridding for keelidge in the ſaid Hauen 8 d. For euery other veſſell 4 d. For euery Barrell of Butter & Weigh of Cheeſe tranſported from the ſaid Hauen 2 d. And 6 d vpon the Tunne for all other Wares and Marchandizes; And that the Brewers of the ſaid Townes ſhall pay for euery Barrell of ſtrong Beere retayled within the ſaid Townes 2 d. And euery Retayler of Beere for euery Barrell retayled 1 d.

And that all ſuch Sums ſhall be paid to the Wardens of the ſaid Hauen, being three in number.

That the ſaid 3 Wardens ſhall be yearely choſen by the Bayliffes of *Dunwich*, *Southwold*, and the Churchwardens of *Walberſwicke*.

That the ſaid Wardens ſhall be a body Politique, and ſhall haue a Common Seale.

That any perſon elected, refuſing to execute the ſaid Office, ſhall forfeite 40 s.

That if any of them dye, or be remoued within their Yeare, the ſaid Townes ſhall elect new in manner aforeſaid.

That the ſaid Wardens ſhall ouer-ſee and gouerne the worke, and account to the Bayliffes and Churchwardens, and that the ſaid Wardens ſhall haue power to diſtraine for any of the Summes and forfeitures due and payable as aforeſaid.